

In regard to factual content there are certain areas where the reviewer disagrees, e.g., on p. 52 in which *Streptococcus viridans* is stated to cause bronchitis, bronchopneumonia, sinusitis, otitis media, etc. Similarly, nowhere in Chapter 12 is it stated that before material is sterilised it should be cleaned and this is one of the basic facts of life in this context.

The author claims in the preface that many sections have been entirely re-written and the text pruned to make room for new material, but only the flimsiest reference is made to group B streptococci and the major one on p. 221 would mislead.

Another significant error is the first paragraph of Chapter 14 and it should be realised by one who uses this book that the incidence of sepsis and death following child-birth saw no reduction until the middle 1930's. On p. 238 it is stated quite correctly that infantile botulism is more common than classical botulism and is less likely to be fatal; the clinical differentiation of these two states is, however, not even mentioned. Numerous other defects have been listed in the reviewers' copy, but two must be drawn to the readers attention, namely the description of bacillary dysentery in the first paragraph of p. 272; those of us who see such cases are aware that in this country the disease is usually no more than a social inconvenience.

Finally, the absence of any mention of clot culture in the diagnosis of typhoid fever is unhappy. There are a few typographical errors. The reviewer is aware of the hard work and hazards of writing single author texts, but until the errors in this volume are corrected he cannot unreservedly recommend it.

R.R.G.

FUNCTIONAL HISTOLOGY: A TEXT AND COLOUR ATLAS. By P. R. Wheater, H. G. Burkitt and V. G. Daniels. Illustrated by P. J. Deakin. (Pp 278. Illustrated. Limp £12.00, Boards £18.00). Edinburgh, London and New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1979.

A NUMBER of excellent and well illustrated texts and atlases have recently appeared and the student should now be able to gain a clear knowledge of the cellular structure of the human body. As the authors of this book maintain structure has tended to be studied in isolation from function and has often seemed boring and irrelevant to the student. This book attempts a synthesis and goes further than most texts to relate the fine structure of various tissues and organs to function.

Basic cellular morphology, largely at the level of the electron microscope, is described in the first chapter, and thereafter the cellular constituents of the various tissues and organs of the body are clearly displayed in the excellent photomicrographs using conventional stains. Each page has up to four illustrations, nearly always in colour, clearly marked with key letters and described on the same page. The student should gain a clear understanding not only of the different cells but of how they are combined in tissues and organs. He will gain useful insights into function, but, unless this is correlated with systematic physiology, he will have little insight into how the body as a whole functions.

This well illustrated and integrated text will lead the student to a relatively detailed knowledge of histology which would also well serve him as he enters laboratory medicine.

J.E.M.

COLOUR ATLAS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY. By Arthur Lim Siew Ming and Ian J. Constable. (Pp 139, figures, tables, references, 193 illustrations, 182 in colour. £6.50). London: Kimpton. 1979.

THIS text contains brief but up to date descriptions of the most important ophthalmological disease entities. The subject matter is well organized, accurate and accompanied by high quality colour photographs which are particularly relevant and informative. Special sections of the book are devoted to the systemic manifestations of ocular disease, neuro-ophthalmology, eye diseases in childhood and ocular injuries. The book is very readable and enjoyable although there is little attempt to discuss any of the ophthalmological topics in any depth. The book will be particularly applicable to nurses, orthoptists and other para-medical personnel. It should also provide preliminary reading for medical students and general practitioners interested in this specialty.

D.B.A.